

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

Vol. 6 No. 2

Friday, December 6, 2013

## Haste Makes Waste

President Obama wants CONGRESS to have no power to amend or rewrite the secretive TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP provisions between 600 corporations and the leaders of Asian Pacific nations. He has also negotiated in secret trade talks with the *European Union*. Now he's rushing the House and Senate to pass the "**Trade Promotion Authority**" known as **THE FAST TRACK** that expired in 2007, just after the *Bush* administration finished with SOUTH KOREA.

You can understand the key matter here in the U.S.A. is whether the stealthily developed trade deals are ushering an *oligarchy*. The issue is that unlike leaders of the other nations, *The President of the United States of America* is sworn in by oath of office to preserve and protect the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and such CONSTITUTION defines "*Treason*" as against the CONSTITUTION. Occupying the highest office of the land has stipulations and if a President breaches his oath of loyalty to the CONSTITUTION then our national check-and-balance system of power calls for "*Impeachment*". *In this country there must be redress of grievances for example*. So it raises eyebrows that our legislators would even consider waving their Constitutional right to weigh in on new rules that will affect business and citizenry.

In CONGRESS, House Democrats are especially skeptical since there's been little or no transparency about the secret provisions. Republicans also express misgivings about THE FAST TRACK in general, and about the *Trans Pacific Partnership* specifically. One doesn't have to use the slowing down process, but it might be prudent. One may wonder if environmental quality is being sacrificed for trade quantity because free trade for more exploitation of all natural resources. Haste makes waste of planet Earth. Will the elected officials listen to the voice of reason, or will a puppet CONGRESS agree to having a mere up or down vote that will bring changes to intellectual property, labor, and the role of government in private enterprise. *Stay tuned*.

(Source: December 6, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*Congress Is Close To 'Fast Track' Deal for Trade Accords*", by Damian Paletta and William Mauldin. WASHINGTON)

## In Defense of Planet Earth

*"When the rain falls on the earth, the soil knows how to absorb the water, allowing seeds to sprout and flowers to bloom. When the bird sings, a free-minded person knows how to enjoy and become relaxed."* --Thich Nhat Hanh

Organic farming methods are ecological and truly sustainable. After Marin County banned GMO crops, the county's agricultural economy grew by 50 percent. *Marin, Mendocino, and Trinity* counties banned GMO crops eight-years ago in CALIFORNIA. HAWAII's *Kauaii* and *Kauai* counties did it last month. Jackson County, OREGON, is next up. Meanwhile MEXICO just banned GMO corn, increasing the international count up from 64 to 65 nations with GMO bans and/or mandatory labeling.

.....

December 12, 2013

Page 2

DeFazio's "GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT" and Boxer's companion SENATE BILL are both in committees. CONNECTICUT and MAINE are the two U.S. states who already did pass GMO labeling legislation.

(Sources: November 23, 2013, OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, "*In Jackson County, proponents of GMO ban prepare for financial onslaught*" by Maya Moore-staff; November 5, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Vote on GMO food labels may have consequences in Congress*" by Kyung M. Song, The Seattle Times)

### The OREGON Farm Bureau's Dirty War

Actually GMO-free Jackson County "Yes on 15-119" is gleaning support for the May 2014 ballot. The Swiss chemical company, SYNGENTA AG 's seeds are banned in their own country and their invasion of OREGON soil harmed local and organic family farms in Jackson County.

Follow the money trail as to why the OREGON FARM BUREAU (OFB) opposes GMO-free Jackson county's measure 15-119. The GMO agrochemical bias donated to the OFB's PAC funds for the past two years, according to the OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL. DOW CHEMICAL donated over \$5,000. MONSANTO donated over \$60,000. SYNGENTA AG donated over \$9,000. That's a scandalous \$74,000! Also an Idaho-based agrochemical company named J.R. SIMPLOT made regular donations of \$1,000. The AGROCHEMICAL LOBBYIST GROUP called "*Oregonians for Food and Shelter*" also donated to the OFB's PAC funds. Representatives from FAR WEST AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION, J.R. SIMPLOT, MONSANTO, and WILCO are on its Board. Golf Tournaments raised funds and Country Financial donated over \$20,000.

Corporate monies influence outcomes by funding fallacious marketing ploys. Will voters be duped by the multiple millions of dollars the agrochemical giants spend to misinform voters, or will you vote "Yes on 15-119" in support of local family farms and their lobbyist group, the Organic Consumers Association Fund. Maybe you'll visit [www.organicconsumers.org](http://www.organicconsumers.org).

Zoe Alowan got to the heart of the agrochemical problem in a letter that the December 6, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS printed in their *Opinion and Editorial* section. She cut to the chase citing the publication in 2001 of Berkley's Assistant Professor Ignacio Chapela's paper on GMO contamination of maize in MEXICO. A harmful and intensive internet harassment campaign against Professor Chapela's was unwarranted.

She also cites the publication in September 2012, of Professor Seralini's paper linking GMO corn to tumors in rats. The journal FOOD AND CHEMICAL TOXICOLOGY published by Elsevier, published it then suddenly Elsevier hired MONSANTO's biased Richard Goodman, as Senior Editor, and he retracted Professor Seralini's valid research paper.

Zoe Alowan goes for the jugular by citing how scientists from all over the world have expressed alarm that corporate influence triggers orchestrated campaigns to debunk, discredit, distort, and otherwise harass the scientific community's independent researchers for linking GMO's to tumors. "*Seralini and Science: An Open Letter*" in SCIENCE NEWS bears witness of appalling corporate influence.

(Sources: November 23, 2013, OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, "*In Jackson County, proponents of GMO ban prepare for financial onslaught*" by Maya Moore-staff; November 5, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Vote on GMO food labels may have consequences in Congress*" by Kyung M. Song, The Seattle Times)

### Dow Chemical Reinvents Itself

GERMANY's BASF SE is the world's largest chemical company, by sales. DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY is the world's second largest chemical company by sales, and the largest U.S. chemical company by sales. It is also the largest U.S. chlorine producer by volume. The company's founder, Herbert Henry Dow, commercialized chlorine for use as bleach. But now in-house "*chemistry*" scientists want DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY to drop the word, "*Chemical*" from its corporate identity.

December 12, 2013

Page 3

Dow will exit 40 facilities at 11 sites in seven countries. Some of DOW's disposals are at the U.S. Gulf Coast, but new facilities are being designed to "exploit" cheap shale gas for its end products. By getting rid of at least \$5 billion in products such as chlorine, DOW chemists will focus on more profitable patent-protected *GMO agricultural seeds, anti-microbial fabrics, re-engineered omega oils, packaging materials, and long-life solar shingles.*

(Source: December 3, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Chemical Giant Launches Make Over" by Doug Cameron)

#### FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI Update

CHINA, JAPAN, and SOUTH KOREA have formed a network to quickly exchange information in case of another FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI nuclear emergency, like the 2011 original accident. Nuclear experts and regulators met in CHINA last week on November 28, according to Kenzo Oshimo, a commissioner with the Nuclear Regulation Authority of JAPAN. The signed agreement means that once there is an accident, the three countries will cooperate for safety's sake. Information about a nuclear accident above a level two must be provided to the Asian counterparts quickly both by email and by phone.

(Source: December 5, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Nations in Asia Reach Nuclear Safety Pact" by Mai Iwata, Tokyo)

#### Coastal Townspeople

Geologically, JAPAN and OREGON are mirror images. The FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI earthquake and tsunami startled the PACIFIC NORTHWEST into sudden realization that the *Cascadia Subduction Zone* is overdue for a similar seismic disaster. In 2011, OREGON legislators authorized the OREGON SEISMIC SAFETY POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION to study what will happen here. The researchers have published the findings. Kent Yu, an engineer chaired the commission, and he has informed our lawmakers that the coastal towns are unprepared. The devastation will ruin the shore from NORTHERN CALIFORNIA to BRITISH COLUMBIA. Damages are estimated to be \$32 billion and 10,000 or more could perish.

If your rural coastal village is left without power, heat, phone service, or water then bridges and buildings may have been destroyed and your car doesn't want to run without gasoline. You may get confused about what used to bother you. You might discover that your priorities have changed. Can you imagine what you would do if you really enjoyed moving to a safer locale.

(March 15, 2013, THE MAIL TRIBUNE, "Report Makes Chilling Forecast on Northwest Earthquake" by Lauren Gambino SALEM)

#### Zermatt, SWITZERLAND

The town of Zermatt is a car-free zone on the border of SWITZERLAND and ITALY. The town has retained much of its original charm as the starting point for some of SWITZERLAND's most popular and challenging hiking trails.

#### Ultra Violet Light

You might want to add The Steripen Traveler UV Water Purifier to your Resiliency Plan at home. It is lightweight to bring along when you go camping or travelling. The Steripen utilizes ultraviolet Light, and eliminates 99.9% of bacteria, protozoa, and viruses in about a minute, exceeding the water purification standards of the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA). It takes four lithium AA batteries that you would have to buy separately.

(TRAVEL ESSENTIALS NEWS, "Great Travel Gifts for all!" by Ember Hood; [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com); 1.800.258.0758)

### Hollywood's Violent Movie Culture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY and the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA released a study that surveyed gun violence in the 30 top-grossing movies from 1950 through 2012, to determine their focus on sequences involving firing hand-held guns with the intent to harm or kill a living being. The most popular films at the box office included animated films.

Researchers learned that gun violence tripled since the PG-13 movie rating was introduced in 1984. By 2012 gun violence in PG-13 movies had surpassed gun violence found in R-rated movies. One could feel shocked. Don't remove gun violence from movies overnight. You could remove violent video games and focus on creating a *Culture of Peace*.

(Source: November 12, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS, "Study: PG-13 films have same frequency of gun violence as R-rated movies" by the Associated Press, NEW YORK)

### We'll See

You may be wondering if IRAN and ISRAEL are mature enough to accept resourceful thinking, resourceful feelings, empowering questions, and vitalizing vocabulary. A six-month interim nuclear agreement with IRAN and the International powers was reached, and the U.S. Senate has delayed a vote on additional sanctions, while about \$7 billion sanctions relief is released.

According to *Henry A. Kissinger* and *George P. Shultz*, former U.S. Secretaries of State, the current diplomacy is to first define a level of nuclear capacity that limits IRAN to plausible civilian uses. Next get safeguards ensured so that IRAN's nuclear limitation level is not exceeded. Then leave open the possibility of a genuinely constructive relationship with IRAN. And finally, design a MIDDLE EASTERN policy that has adjusted to new circumstances. These six-months could become a historic evolutionary break-through that opens the door for pursuing an agenda of long-term cooperation, if IRAN dismantles or mothballs a significant portion of their infrastructure.

Or these six-months could be a setback. According to *Robert Satloff*, the Executive Director of the *Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, if a final deal isn't forged, watch out for ISRAEL on day 181 because IRAN's heavy water reactor would be capable of producing weapons usable plutonium inside of two years, making new sanctions a must. The imam mulls over changes.

(Sources: November 16-17, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "U.S. Officials Move to Clear Obstacles to Iran Nuclear Deal" by Jay Solomon and Carol Lee; November 18, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Strains With Israel Over Iran Snarl U.S. Goals in Mideast" by Jay Solomon and Carol Lee, with Joshua Mitnick in Tel Aviv; November 21, 2013, DAILY TRIBUNE, "U.S. Promises Caution as Iran Nuclear Talks Resume in Geneva" by Paul Richter and Ramin Mosighim with the TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU; November 21, 2013, "Iran Leader Breaks from Conciliatory Line" by Jay Solomon, Stacy Meichtry, and Farnaz Fassihi in GENEVA; November 25, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Two-Track negotiation Led to Agreement" by Carol Lee, Jay Solomon, and Vince Norman; November 25, 2013 THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "Iran Pact Faces Stiff Opposition" by Jay Solomon; November 25, 2013 MAIL TRIBUNE, "Shadow Dialogue Drove Iran Nuclear Deal" by Matthew Lee and Brian Murphy"; December 3 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "What a Final Iran Deal Must Do" by Henry A. Kissinger and George P. Shultz)

### Naughty or Nice U.S. Cities

According to the *American Pet Product Association*, Americans spend more than \$53 billion a year on their pets.

Contrast \$53 billion a year pet pampering with the stoning of homeless camps by THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. One could wonder whether brotherly love is null and void because a "Neighborhood Association" in Portland, OREGON, despises the poor who seek shelter under a section of Interstate 205.

December 12, 2013

Page 5

The OREGON state agency appeased the heartless neighbors by placing very big boulders under the freeway. Stoning the area with giant rocks eliminated the destitute from camping under the shelter of the freeway. TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS plan on stoning the other homeless camps around *Portland*.

Contrast frames bear witness to the human heart. In stark contrast is *Eugene*, OREGON. Eugene apparently has some compassion for brother Man. The meaning of "*Eugene*" is "*Good Birth*" and Eugene has birthed advocates for the poor who, for over a year, urged their City Council to provide a place for homeless humankind to sleep. The *Eugene City Council* voted to allow each camp up to 15-residents. The camps on city-owned land will be run by volunteers, starting with a site located in the *Trainsong Neighborhood*, close to bus lines and close to organizations that serve.

The NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY reports that over 100 American cities made it a crime to ask passers-by for food or monetary assistance. That number included 16 cities in CALIFORNIA. The cruelty received national attention when a 77-year old lady was arrested in *Flagstaff*, ARIZONA, for asking someone for bus fare. She didn't know it was an undercover police officer. *Flagstaff* police had arrested an estimated 135 people for simply asking for a little assistance during the year.

The AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) OF ARIZONA filed lawsuit against the city of *Flagstaff* for removing people from downtown areas by jailing them on suspicion of loitering to ask passers-by for food or money. Attorney *Mik Jordahl*, ACLU co-counsel in the lawsuit, argued that law enforcement must enforce the *First Amendment* and states cannot make free speech a crime. U.S. Federal District Judge *Neil Wake* ruled it is *unconstitutional* for ARIZONA to violate *First Amendment* free speech rights that are protected by the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Similar *First Amendment* guarantees of free speech rights for panhandlers have been ruled as legal decisions in UTAH and MICHIGAN. An *Arcata* city ordinance was also struck down by *Humboldt County* last year.

There were 18,165 students in OREGON who were homeless during the 2012-2013 academic year. *Beaverton*, *Portland*, and *Medford* had the most student housing insecurity, with students lacking a fixed and regular nighttime residence. These youths living on their own are committed to their education, and federal law requires school districts to hire a liaison person to help them get to school and to help them have the supplies needed to learn. It is housing hardship to bounce between the homes of friends and relatives, or to live in motels. They worry about the basics while trying to stay in school. Youths living in poverty, but with a stable housing situation are not considered homeless. But it is very hard for U.S. students to live with struggling family situations. Consider the difficulties of a student trying to study in an environment of three families living together in a two-bedroom home.

(Sources: October 25, 2013, THE MAIL TRIBUNE, "*OREGON Department of Transportation Uses Boulders to Deter Portland Homeless*"; October 30, 2013, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Eugene OKs two homeless camps on city-owned land*"; October 8, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Judge throws out law against begging in Arizona*" by Cindy Carcamo LOS ANGELES TIMES; October 15, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Can begging be banned?*", reprinted from the October 9, 2013, LOS ANGELES TIMES; November 22, 2013, THE MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Oregon has fewer homeless students, report says*" by Steven Dubois of The Associated Press)

#### Lust of the Flesh

You might want to think twice about how the U.S. produces more than 43 billion pounds of poultry annually and the American people eat about 8 billion chickens annually. The average American eats about 100 pounds of poultry a year. Most of Man's feathered friends are factory farmed with each poultry "house" overcrowded with about 30,000 birds. The poor living conditions breed bacteria and disease. When you realize the federal FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) approved the use of ARSENIC in poultry feed in the 1940's, then you can wonder what would happen if the FDA were held accountable for seven decades of related health issues suffered by the U.S. citizenry. You can fast forward to the eco-justice punch line because ARSENIC is an element that does *not* disintegrate. It stays in and moves through air, soil, and water causing environmental health issues. Think about it.

December 12, 2013

Page 6

Poultry litter is often fed to cattle and burned as bio-fuel. It is applied as fertilizer on home gardens, golf courses, and farms. ARSENIC from the fertilizer leaches into groundwater, contaminating drinking and irrigation water sources. Exposure to ARSENIC carries increased risk of antibiotic resistance through horizontal gene transfer, and is causative of birth defects, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and lessened intellect. That's why in 2009 OREGON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY signed a petition asking the FDA to ban the use of ARSENIC in animal feed.

When a federal agency takes no action regarding a petition, the agency response must be forced. To force a federal agency response, the OREGON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY joined in with eight agricultural, environmental, food safety, and public health organizations in a *lawsuit against the FDA*, calling for immediate withdrawal of ARSENIC from animal feed. You can learn more about the legal suit by visiting [www.oregonpsr.org](http://www.oregonpsr.org). Most poultry producers also use ANTIBIOTICS. Actually more than 80% of all ANTIBIOTICS in America are used in animal agriculture as drugs that promote growth. Not only is it abusive to the creatures, it is causative of human ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE.

Health Care Providers and Hospitals have partnered up with HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM and the HEALTHY FOOD PROGRAM for the purpose of having a voice in policy discussions regarding ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE. President Obama was delivered a letter in early June, 2013, asking him to pressure the FDA to limit the use of ANTIBIOTICS in animal agriculture. Bills moving through CONGRESS include DATA Act, H.R. 820, S.895, PAMTA H.R. and H50. There will be opportunities to weigh in on these issues. Contact Gretchen Miller or Emma Sirois at [www.oregonpsr.org](http://www.oregonpsr.org).

The PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY care deeply about the health of their communities and are willing to make their voices heard so that U.S. citizens have a healthy quality of life and American children can thrive. According to Susan Katz, MD, people from all walks of life and from all neighborhoods need to hear about environmental health concerns and real life toxic environments. As a medical doctor she claims the Light needs to focus on situations in NORTH CAROLINA, MISSISSIPPI, OREGON, AND TENNESSEE.

[Source: Summer 2013, OREGON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, "Poultry: Why We Should Care About Production Practices" by Gretchen Miller, Healthy Food Program Coordinator]

### Pop Quiz

How far do you have to travel before you reach a different watershed.

---

**Fair Use Notice:** The *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are intended for educational and informational purposes only. Just in case there's any copywriter material, the use of which material may not have always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner, it is believed that the intention of these newsletters constitutes a "Fair Use" of any copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In Accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are distributed without profit to those who have an interest in using the included information for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material in any of the *Eco Community Dialogues* newsletters for purposes of your own that go beyond "Fair Use", you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. The information in the *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters does not constitute legal or technical advice.

Nancy Nelson makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (Content) contained in the *Eco-Community Newsletters*. However, she makes no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in these newsletters are the opinions and views of the authors, and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Nancy Nelson shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to, or arising out of the use of the Content. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, selling, loan, licensing, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Access and use of these newsletters may be used only for research, teaching, and private study purposes.